REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2009. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Abdul-Ali for his time and helpfulness in a series of telephone interviews regarding the present application and the prior art. The substance of this paper is intended to reflect those discussions.

Support for the present claim amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed. For example, support for the present claim amendments includes line 7 on page 12 of the Specification as originally filed.

System and computer program product claims have also been re-introduced.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on the combination of U.S. patent number 6,697,840 of Godefroid et al. ("Godefroid et al.") with U.S. patent number 6,434,599 of Porter ("Porter"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As previously noted, in column 5, lines 15-18, Godefroid et al. specifically teach that a user interface sends the messages to the rest of a presence awareness system indicating login, logout, screensaver(on), and screensaver(off) events. Further in column 5, beginning at line 19, Godefroid et al. teach that a user may inquire about the presence of other users. As described in lines 21-31 of column 5, the inquiries of Godefroid et al. may relate to a user's interest in the login status of another user, the screen saver status of another user, whether another user is in a collaborative session, the other user's indicated willingness to interact (a "door" status), access

rules and settings of the other user, and the other user's calendar, location, phone number, email address, and real name (in the case of anonymous participation). For these user activities, the Godefroid et al. user interface sends check-availability (X), check-name(X), check-chatters(X) messages to the rest of the presence awareness system, and receives available(X), unavailable(X), name(real(X), pseudo(Y)), and chatters(SID, SetOfChatters) messages from the presence awareness system, where each chat session is identified by a globally unique id "SID", as described in lines 41-48 in column 5.

Porter discloses a system in which visitation by a first on-line user to an information page of an information site is facilitated, and in which dynamic formation of a chat session for the first on-line user and a second on-liner user to chat with each other is also facilitated. Porter teaches that the chat session and its dynamic formation are facilitated by an information site or by a third party chat server, and that the second on-line user is also visiting the same information page, or is merely visiting the same information site, or is visiting another information site.

Specifically, in column 8, beginning at line 24, Porter discloses that upon receipt of an "initiate" chat request associated with an initiating user, a chat session manager polls all other current visitors to an information site, presenting them with the descriptions describing the initiating user as well as his/her interest in chatting. The chat session manager of Porter polls current visitors who are already participating in an earlier formed chat session by posting the question through the earlier formed chat session. Upon expiration of a predetermined reply interval, the Porter chat session manager determines if at least one current visitor to the information site has consented to chat with the initiating user. If none have consented, the chat session manager of Porter informs the initiating user accordingly. If at least one "consent" is a current chat participant, the Porter chat session manager adds the initiating user to an appropriate

one of the earlier formed chat sessions. Porter further discloses that if the "consent users" are already participants of multiple chat sessions, the initiating user may be prompted to select which one of the multiple chat sessions he/she wants to join.

Nowhere in the combination of Godefroid et al. and Porter is there disclosed or suggested any method for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, comprising:

> *sensing, at a remote computer system, a number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system, wherein said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system is a total number of display windows currently open for instant messaging sessions on said remote computer system,* and wherein said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system is a plurality of instant messaging sessions;
> conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;
> conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and
> *presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system.* (emphasis added)

as in the present independent claim 1. The combination of Godefroid et al. and Porter results in a system in which inquiries may be made relating to a user's interest in whether another user *is currently in any collaborative session*, as in Godefroid et al., and in which a user seeking to initiate a chat session regarding an information site may be prompted to select from among multiple currently active chat sessions regarding the information site, as in Porter. Nothing in the combination of Godefroid et al. and Porter discloses or suggests *sensing, at a remote computer system, a number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system, wherein said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said*

remote computer system is a total number of display windows currently open for instant

messaging sessions on said remote computer system,. . . and presenting, by said awareness client

application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said

remote computer system in a display for said local computer system, as in the present

independent claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Godefroid

et al. and Porter does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the combination of Godefroid et al. and Porter does not support a prima facie case

of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regard to the present independent claim 1 under 35

U.S.C. 103.   Dependent claims 2-3 and 8-10 are respectfully believed to be patentable over

Godefroid et al. and Porter for at least the same reasons.

Claims 4-7 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on the combination

of Godefroid et al. and Porter with U.S. patent number 7,124,372 of Brin ("Brin"). Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection.

As explained above, Godefroid et al. and Porter do not disclose or suggest all the features

of the present independent claim 1. Adding the disclosure of Brin to Godefroid et al. and Porter

fails to remedy the shortcomings of Godefroid et al. alone in this regard. Brin discloses a system

that is capable of storing a time stamp in association with a specific portion of text (see Fig. 4B).

However, like Godefroid et al. and Porter, Brin includes no teaching or suggestion of *sensing, at*

a remote computer system, a number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said

remote computer system, wherein said number of instant messaging sessions associated with

said user of said remote computer system is a total number of display windows currently open

for instant messaging sessions on said remote computer system,. . . and presenting, by said

awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with

said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system, as in the

present independent claim 1, from which claims 4-7 depend.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of <u>Godefroid</u>

<u>et al.</u>, <u>Porter</u> and <u>Brin</u> does not disclose all the features of the present independent claim 1, and

accordingly does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the present

independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103. As claims 4-7 depend from claim 1, they are

respectfully believed to be patentable over the combination of <u>Godefroid et al.</u>, <u>Porter</u> and <u>Brin</u>

for at least the same reasons.

Applicants have amended claims and cancelled claims from further consideration in this

Application. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by unamended

and/or cancelled claims is not patentable. The claim amendments and cancellations were made

solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully

reserve the right to pursue additional claims, including the subject matter encompassed by

unamended or canceled claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance.

However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully

requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that

such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

__July 31, 2009_____   _____/David Dagg/_____
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